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C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 000479

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF AND AF/E  
STATE PASS USAID

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TAGS: [DJ](#) [EAID](#) [KHIV](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [TBIO](#)

SUBJECT: MINISTRY OF HEALTH FOCUS ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
AND HIV/AIDS IN DJIBOUTI

Classified By: AMBASSADOR MARGUERITA D. RAGSDALE.  
REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) According to Djibouti's Minister of Health, Dr. Mohammed Ali Kamil, most recent studies indicate that the rate of HIV/AIDS infection in Djibouti is about 3 percent. During the Ambassador's courtesy call on him, the Minister said this rate indicates that Djibouti is in a state of "generalized infection," which needs to be controlled before it becomes too late. The small size of the country, he added, could make the fight against HIV/AIDS very efficient, in actuality, if donor assistance in the campaign against HIV/AIDS is made available.

2. (C) Kamil said assistance from donors should focus first on regional disease-prevention programs since most of the patients with infectious diseases are foreigners from Somalia or Ethiopia (75 per cent in the districts and 50 per cent in Djibouti city). Indeed, he continued, most of the 4,000 tuberculosis cases in Djibouti are Ethiopians. They are depleting Djiboutian resources, he claimed. Kamil noted World Bank funding of a program aimed at reducing infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria generally in Djibouti. "This is the most important area of support Djibouti requires," he said.

3. (U) The Minister also said UNICEF assists the Ministry of Health in the areas of vaccinations, mother-child health care, and mother-child HIV/AIDS transmission, with a total budget of USD 681,000 for 2004. The World Health Organization contributed USD 500,000 of this amount, he said.

4. (U) In this regard, Kamil told Ambassador that Djibouti wishes to be eligible for President Bush's Global AIDS Initiative. He expressed the view that his Ministry and Djibouti's health sector had completed a number of reforms that would support eligibility. It is the only country in the region with comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment capabilities. Moreover, Djibouti has designated seven centers for HIV/AIDS treatment and has appointed an HIV/AIDS Coordination Committee comprised of 11 ministries.

5. (U) Comment: Current USAID programming in Djibouti already includes an additional focus on prevention of infectious diseases including tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS. Its total obligation through a Strategic Objective Grant Agreement for Health with the Government of the Republic of Djibouti is USD 12 million. End comment.  
RAGSDALE